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Press statement: Brisbane Press Club

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Embargoed to 2.00p.m.,
Friday, August 15th, 1975.

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
MR. DON DUNSTAN

The Premier of South Australia, Mr. Don Dunstan, today criticised lack of spending on education, hospitals and social welfare by the Queensland State Government.

Mr. Dunstan was addressing the Brisbane Press Club.

He said that people in Australia and in any modern industrialised developed community ought to require that their children were taught, their sick tended and their poor cared for.

Australian standards had been established in these areas. The Premier said that South Australia's tax rates were marginally higher than Queensland's but South Australia provided very much more than marginally higher standards in education, health, and social welfare.

Queensland, in contrast, had the worst standard of these services anywhere in Australia.

Mr. Dunstan said he did not believe that the people of Queensland were so different from the people of the rest of Australia that they would rather let their services "go to pot" simply to pay a slightly lower standard of taxation.

It was also true that it was essential that a person have a reasonable take home pay and a situation not developed where so much came out of the pay packet that a person lacked the incentive to improve his position.

A reasonable balance had to be reached and maintained.

South Australia had now reached such a position.

Premier Dunstan said the position in Queensland was quite extraordinary.

In the year 1973/74 South Australia's recurrent expenditure in education was \$129.67 per capita, Queensland's was \$100.28. In health, South Australia spent \$61.23 per capita, Queensland spent \$56.57.

In community welfare, South Australia spent \$12.06 per capita, Queensland spent \$10.28.

Premier Dunstan said: "It seems to me that Queenslanders should consider State Government in these terms. Vain, empty shibboleths, such as 'socialist conspiracy' are as pathetic and redundant as the visionless people who utter them.

"The job of Government is to respond to the desires and demands of the community, and that is what we've been able to do in South Australia.

"Queensland people have the capacity to do the same."

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